

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 SS-20 SNM-02 INR-10 SCI-06

DRC-01 RSC-01 IOE-00 /068 W

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P 051150Z APR 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5043

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

S E C R E T GENEVA 2180

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM BAN

REF: GENEVA 1442 AND 1723

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MISOFF APRIL 4, ARIM (TURKEY) MENTIONED THAT SHORTLY PRIOR KIRCA'S DEPARTURE FOR ME SUBCOMMISSION STUDY TOUR MARTENS INDICATED TO KIRCA THAT DND HAD BEEN RECEIVING QUERIES RE SITUATION CONCERNING TURKISH OPIUMBAN AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE VISIT ANKARA FOR PURPOSE OF ASCERTAINING CURRENT STATUS THIS MATTER, ARIM SAID THAT ON KIRCA'S BEHALF HE HAD REFERRED MATTER TO ANKARA AND GOT HAD AGREED RECEIVE MARTENS APRIL 16/18. ARIM NOTED THAT MARTENS WOULD BE RECEIVED BY SYG OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (FONMIN WOULD BE IN NEW YORK AT UNGA) AND BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. ARIM MADE NO (RPT NO) REFERENCE TO UPCOMING INCB VISIT, WHICH, AS ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL, KIRCA SPECIFIED MUST BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT MADE KNOWN TO DND OR ELSEWHERE WITHIN UN SECRETARIAT.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY LETTER, MARTENS IS MAKING FUND-RAISING TOUR AFTER EASTER TO CAPITALS CERTAIN ME OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND VISIT ANKARA IS STOPOVER DURING COURSE THAT TOUR. WE PLAN SEE MARTENS EARLY NEXT WEEK TO SOUND HIM OUT ON TACK HE PROPOSES TAKE IN
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HIS TALKS WITH TURKS, TO STRESS USG'S STRONG INTEREST IN BAN'S

MAINTENANCE AND REASONS THEREFOR, AND TO POINT OUT DELETERIOUS EFFECT LIFTING OF BAN WOULD HAVE ON DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS THROUGHOUT ME AND BEYOND. HOPE IS THAT WE CAN PERSUADE HIM TO MAKE NEGATIVE NOISES ABOUT LIFTING OF BAN AND NOT MERELY ASCERTAIN STATUS OF TURKISH POSITION WHICH, ACCORDING TO ARIM'S REPORT, IS HIS PRESENT INTENTION. IT SEEMS TO US THAT FOR SENIOR UN NARCOTICS OFFICIAL HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKS AT THIS JUNCTURE AND FAIL ARGUE AGAINST LIFTING OF BAN COULD BE MISUNDERSTOOD AND DAMAGING.

3. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT UNFORTUNATE STATEMENT MARTENS MADE BEFORE CND (REFTELS) IN WHICH HE CITED RESUMPTION OF PRODUCTION AS AVAILABLE OPTION FOR COPING WITH INCREASING CODEINE REQUIREMENTS, WE ARE UNEASY ABOUT HIS VISITING TURKEY AT THIS JUNCTURE. IDEALLY, UN POSITION SHOULD STAND ON WELL-KNOWN PRO-BAN VIEWS OF INCB WHICH GREENFIELD/DITTERT PLAN STRONGLY REITERATE DURING THEIR CONSULTATIONS ANKARA LATE IN MAY. AND IN ANY CASE INCB IS MOST APPROPRIATE UN AUTHORITY DISCUSS MATTER WITH TURKS SINCE BOARD IS ORGAN RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NARCOTICS TREATIES AND POSSESSING POWER INVOKE SANCTIONS PURSUANT THOSE TREATIES. HOWEVER, SINCE MARTENS' VISIT SCHEDULED AND ACCEPTED BY TURKS, THERE SEEMS NOTHING TO BE DONE AT THIS POINT OTHER THAN TRY INFLUENCE POSTURE HE WILL TAKE. WE THINK THAT IN DOING THIS OUR HAND WOULD BE STRENGTHENED IF WE COULD INDICATE WHEN WE DISCUSS MATTER WITH MARTENS THAT WE ARE SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS. PLEASE ADVISE.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUGS, OPIUM, SUPPLIES, DRUG CONTROL, MEETING AGENDA, MEDICAL CARE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA02180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740077-0399
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740464/aaaacgvz.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: GENEVA 1442 AND 1723
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH OPIUM BAN
TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005